

The Digital Information Management Program (DIMP) works to preserve democracy by providing freedom of access to North Carolina state government information

NCpedia—Virtual county tours

Do you have digital images taken in Alleghany, Madison, Mitchell, Perquimans, Wilkes or Yancey county? Do you use Flickr (flickr.com)?



User contributed image slideshows have been embedded in 94 of the county entries in NCpedia (ncpedia.org/geography/counties). Help us by contributing images of the remaining six or simply show off your favorite locations in NC! Details are online at ncpedia.org/contribute.

Lighthouses

New to NCpedia:

Currituck Beach Lighthouse: ncpedia.org/currituck-beach-lighthouse

Oak Island Lighthouse: ncpedia.org/oak-island-lighthouse

M. Czaikowski



CHECK US OUT!

[Digital Preservation](#)
[Digital Collections](#)
[NCpedia](#)
[State Library of NC](#)
digital.info@ncdcr.gov



Digital Insider

04|02 (Spring 2011) Digital Information News from the State Library of NC

Usability and Relationships

Lisa Gregory

It may not seem like it sometimes, but there's an entire world of people who spend their professional lives trying to make websites more functional, streamlined, and user friendly. Recently, I attended a meeting of those types of people—the Usability Professional's Association annual conference. Since the State Library produces all sorts of information products (websites, databases, encyclopedias) for different users, we've been trying to tap into ways that we can make the information in those sites easily accessible and even enjoyable. This conference helped me understand the changing way humans use information online.

The keynote speaker, Paul Adams of Facebook, described how social interaction now drives web development. Sites that allow users to interact or that leverage user reviews and participation end up being more successful and garnering more user engagement and support. Not everyone uses Facebook, but Adams was trying to make the point that humans operate online, on all kinds of sites, in ways very similar to how they operate in real life. He gave some supporting statistics:

The average number of people closest to you, as an American...

Number of people per week the average Facebook user communicates with directly...

150 Maximum number of friends/family/coworkers scientists believe we can "keep up with."

130-170 Average number of friends of a typical Facebook user.

1 average Facebook user has...

~ 130 Facebook friends,

~8,000 friends of friends,

~1,000,000 friends of friends of friends,

Relationships are important, and we are influenced by those we know, or those connected to us through friends. People creating online content should be aware that static sites will be a lot less successful than sites that offer a human connection.

Adams blogs at <http://www.thinkoutsidein.com/blog/>, where you can read more of his research regarding the connection between human networks and digital information.

State Library Receives National Sparks! Ignition Grant

Amy Rudersdorf

This May, the Digital Information Management Program at the State Library was awarded a competitive "SPARKS!" grant of \$25,000 from the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) for a unique program to aid in preservation of digital publications. The grant funds the development of a capture, ingest, and checksum tool ("CINCH") that will "filter" digital files as a first step towards ensuring that future users can trust that the publications at state agencies and public and private academic institutions statewide are what they purport to be.

Grant partners are [Elon University](#), [Belk Library](#), [NC LIVE \(North Carolina Libraries for Virtual Education\)](#), [North Carolina State Archives](#), and [University of North Carolina at Charlotte, J. Murrey Atkins Library](#). The grant website is located at digitalpreservation.ncdcr.gov/cinch.

IMLS awarded 14 grants totaling \$336,281 matched with \$360,444 of non-federal funds for Sparks! Ignition Grants. IMLS received 106 applications requesting \$2,468,234 in funds. "These awards speak to the great ingenuity and creativity of libraries and museums and we look forward to sharing their lessons learned," said Susan Hildreth, IMLS Director. For a complete list of grants or to learn more about IMLS, visit imls.gov.



NCpedia AWARDED

The [NCpedia](#) was recognized for excellence in online reference services at the American Library Association conference in June. The Gale Cengage Learning Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Services is awarded annually. The certificate, which is [posted on our Facebook page, reads](#), "for development of an outstanding free online encyclopedia. . . a rich source of information about North Carolina history and culture that serves as a model for other libraries to develop open reference sources." Michelle Czaikowski, chief architect of NCpedia, accepted the award on behalf of the Government & Heritage Library.

More GHL events and news are on [Facebook](#) and Twitter ([@ncpedia](#)).



What's on in the Digital World?

Jennifer Ricker

Newspaper Accessibility

Newspapers are a vital part of the historical record. However, microfilm of old newspapers often doesn't circulate and may be held in only a few locations. This means researchers may have to travel to use these resources. Digitizing older newspapers eliminates the researcher's need to travel, but is resource intensive, and is not often done en masse without grant funding. Google began a mass newspaper digitization project in 2008. But, last month they announced that it would end due to many publishers' desire to profit from the venture. The pages already digitized, about 60 million according to Google, are still available at news.google.com/archivesearch.

Of course, most modern newspapers are born digital, eliminating the need for digitization. However,

concerns about long-term access remain. A new report from [CRL](#), "[Preserving News in the Digital Environment: Mapping the Newspaper Industry in Transition](#)," evaluates the differences between creating and maintaining news content in the paper and digital worlds. For anyone archiving newspaper, this report is an enlightening look at what one group of publishers are doing to transition to the digital world and how that may impact digital preservation efforts. It's definitely worth a read.

Digital Capture of Special Collections Materials

Many organizations have identified ways to streamline book digitization and have shared this knowledge with the greater community (think Google and the Internet Archive). This has enabled faster book reformatting in greater quantities

than we might have imagined only a few years ago. Unfortunately, these processes don't translate so well to the digitization of non-book materials housed in archives and special collections.



"[Rapid Capture: Faster Throughput in Digitization of Special Collections](#)" from OCLC attempts to address the challenges these materials pose by sharing the methods

nine institutions have tested to speed up special collections digitization. The report includes information on outsourcing, hardware selection, staffing, and throughput.

Hopefully, this information will lead to some efficiencies in large-scale archives and special collections reformatting.

DISCOVERY: Session Laws

Kathleen Kenney

DISCOVERY is dedicated to noteworthy subjects found in born-digital and digitized state agency collections.

Revealing Social Change in NC

One of the fascinating things about the historical North Carolina Session Laws, now available online at the [North Carolina Digital Collections](#), is how they reveal the concerns of North Carolinians over time. Session laws are the statutes enacted by the legislature during a single session. Early session laws deal with incorporating towns, regulating courts and public officials, establishing private schools, and developing a transportation infrastructure.

By the 1830s, laws appear regarding the organization of militia, the incorporation of manufacturing companies and the actions of slaves and their owners. State institutions to care for the blind, deaf or mentally ill gain significance by the

1850s. Banking laws become more prominent as do laws pertaining to the railroads, public schools, and selling or consuming liquor. After the Civil War, segregation plays a role in many new and revised laws. Child labor and automobile laws



begin to appear in the early twentieth century.

Whether historical or legal interest brings you to browse the North Carolina Session Laws, be assured they contain a treasure trove of information.

Digitization of the North Carolina Session Laws from 1817 to 2000 is made possible by the LSTA-funded grant *Ensuring Democracy through Digital Access*. Current sessions are available online from the [North Carolina General Assembly](#).

